Sir, for subsequent tranche of orders that we were to place on the Israeli Company, whose was the lowest bid, the bid was manipulated, and the equipment was bought from a company called 'Thomson'. In that transaction, there was a clear loss of Rs. 22 crores; over and above that, a sum of Rs. 9 crores had earlier been paid to the Israeli Company for technology transfer to the Bharat Electronics Limited. And, the time-schedule for delivery was also such that the entire amount of equipment could have been produced and manufactured by the Bharat Electronics. Subsequently, today, it has been published that 'Krasnopol', a partially-guided ammunition, for which a company called *Sajem* of France is the best manufacturer, by all counts, has actually been pushed out of the shortlist, and the equipment was not purchased by them, though the Army found earlier that this equipment was best suited for the hilly terrain of Kargil. Sir, both these cases refer to issues which have been brought out by the Tehelka tapes, and it confirms our worst fears that there was indeed manipulation during the Kargil War by a part of the Army set-up for making - what should I say -- illegal gains. Therefore, Sir, this is a very, very serious case, and this lends further credence to what has been revealed by the Tehelka Tapes. Sir, it is such a serious issue which concerns the national security. The Government complains that the Opposition is unmindful of national security. So, Sir, on this entire episode, - and now, it has been confirmed by a Constitutional Authority like the CAG -- the Government should come out with a comprehensive statement, explaining the facts.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI 0. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, tomorrow, the House is scheduled to discuss the issues relating to Tehelka. I hope, all these matters will come up for discussion, and more light will be thrown on various issues relating to it. Over and above that, I would like to say that the points mentioned by the two hon. Members will be brought to the notice of the Defence Minister.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demolition of Periyar Centre at New Delhi by the DDA

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it was quite disturbing and painful to learn that the Periyar Centre at Bamnoli, New Delhi, inaugurated only

during last year, was subjected to unwarranted demolition by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on 04.12.2001. It is distressing to note that such a shabby treatment was meted out to the Periyar Centre, promoted by the Dravidar Kazhagam for the purpose of propagating the humanistic and rationalistic ideals of Thanthai Periyar, one of the greatest Indian reformers that the 20^{lh} Century had produced. I feel that the demolition of the Periyar Centre was carriecf out with undue haste, and could have been totally avoided. That this building, housing the first ever such Centre for Thanthai Periyar in the National Capital, New Delhi, was mutilated beyond repair, for alleged minor violations, if any, of the building rules, is highly condemnable. Sir, the Government should undo the damage already done by handling this issue in a responsible way, and help to restore and renovate the truncated Periyar Centre.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttaranchal): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T.N. Chaturvedi; *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, it is a very important issue, and the Government should respond. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T.N. Chaturvedi; *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, the Government should respond because this is a very serious issue. *...interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already said this.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, Thanthai Periyar is popular throughout the country. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government will respond. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: He has dedicated all his life for the betterment of the downtrodden people. The Government should respond; It is a serious matter. *...l/nterruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: They will respond. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi;

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, the Periyar Centre has been demolished.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, a very important issue has been raised. I will certainly bring it to the notice of the Minister of Urban Affairs for necessary action.

Arrest of Al-Quaeda operative in Mumbai and disclosures reportedly made by him

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of grave threat to national security and the anxiety caused throughout the country.

A member of Osama Bin Laden outfit, Al-Quaeda, Md. Afroz Abdul Razak, arrested on 2nd October by the Mumbai Police, during interrogation disclosed the sensational news that Al - Quaeda had formed four suicide groups -- one to hit Pentagon and twin towers on nlh September and the three others to similarly attack our Parliament, Rolta Tower in Australia and the British Parliament. Afroz was to target the British Parliament. He had been trained as a pilot in Australia, the U.K. and Texas. The Al-Quaeda terrorist further disclosed to the Police Commissioner about the funds placed in different banks, and that the operatives were withdrawing them. Some facts were revealed by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, who is also the Home Minister of the Maharashtra Government. The Deputy Chief Minister also mentioned that he was asked by the Union Home Minister not to give full details. Even the nationality of Afroz, who has been remanded to judicial custody till 2nd of December, has not been disclosed. 777© *Pioneer* and *The Hindu* as well as *The Statesman* in their issues of 7m December, have reported the news on the front page. One can understand the need for caution during investigation of such a serious and widespread conspiracy. But, the House is entitled to know the bare and basic facts so as to allay the apprehensions and anxiety of the people of the country. Consistent with the imperatives of investigations and needs of security, I will request the Home Minister, through you, Sir, to take this House into confidence about this serious development at the earliest. It is all the more